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29 October 1968

COMPREHENSIVE SURVEYS OF THE NIS

1953

On the basis of a comprehensive analysis of 350 replies to an NIS Committee formulated questionnaire circulated in December 1953 to its members agencies, the following recommendations were indicated:

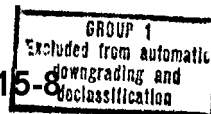
- 1) To maintain the NIS more nearly current.
- 2) To extend NIS coverage more rapidly.
- 3) To increase the amount of detail in NIS.
- 4) To provide succinct, synthesized, over-all area coverage.

Conclusions as to the value of the NIS to the users queried in 1953 were that:

- 1) Users at the high command, staff, and planning levels, for whom the NIS was primarily designed, reaffirmed the need for NIS.
- 2) A great majority of these users believed that in the event of a critical situation or a general war, the immediate availability of the NIS would be of great value.
- 3) A substantial majority of these users believed that the present scope and treatment of the NIS are satisfactory.
- 4) The NIS was found useful in a variety of ways by diverse users whom it was not primarily designed to serve.
- 5) All of the principal recommendations for the improvement of the NIS were among the objectives toward which the NIS Committee and the participating agencies have been moving in the long-range development of the NIS Program.

See Reverse for Review Action

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1955

The Clark Task Force in its Hoover Commission report to Congress in June 1955 said,

"The National Intelligence Survey is an invaluable publication which provides the essential elements of basic intelligence on all areas of the world. While its production involves an extensive and expensive effort, all members of the Intelligence Community derive an immediate benefit from the contributions they make to it, and profit from the final product. There will always be a continuing requirement for keeping the Survey up-to-date."

1958

In August 1958 the Department of State issued a report entitled, "A Study of the Use of the NIS in the Field," which contained analyses and recommendations relative to replies to an NIS-use questionnaire sent to 132 Foreign Service posts throughout the world. Replies were received from a total of 1,934 officers including 337 Defense Department attaches. The 104 posts responding to the questionnaire included 66 embassies, 2 legations, and 36 consular posts.

Recommendations by the Foreign Service included:

- 1) Change the format to facilitate more frequent revisions.
- 2) Reduce the classification.
- 3) The NIS should be more completely indexed.
- 4) The information contained in the NIS should be made available in briefer form.
- 5) All officers assigned to the field should be required to read the NIS as a part of their consultation assignment.
- 6) Surveys should be made of other NIS end-users (in Washington).

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Conclusions of the Foreign Service in general were that the NIS was an excellent source of background information but that its usefulness for field reporting was limited because it was not always available as an up-to-date reference source. As a source of basic intelligence information of a type not subject to frequent revision, its value was deemed great. Resulting from this Survey, was the recommendation for departmental corrective action relative to 5) above to posts that reported limited use of NIS. Of interest is the fact that of requests for an additional 3,865 NIS sections generated by the questionnaire, more than 2,700 were on adjacent or politically related areas; this substantiated the findings that published basic intelligence on pertinent other areas is a major element in the value of the NIS for post personnel who generally will have local sources and more current information on the post's country.

1961

A survey of NIS military users was conducted by the Intelligence Directorate Joint Staff, acting for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in collaboration with the Services. A report was issued dated 4 November 1960 with enclosure of 10 January 1961 which was based on a comprehensive survey of the military establishment including all unified and specified commands and DoD components for the purpose of determining military requirements for basic intelligence as produced under the NIS Program. The Joint Staff Requirements and Statement of Priorities

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for the NIS confirmed the need of the military establishment for early completion and accelerated maintenance of the bulk of the NIS program as currently constituted. The report indicated:

- 1) A need for some 86% of all NIS production world wide.
- 2) Assigned high priority to some 70% of NIS world areas including 17 African, and 20 Latin American areas.
- 3) Need for more rapid initial coverage and maintenance of the NIS.

It was noted that the JCS survey indicated substantial satisfaction by the military establishment with the scope and format of the NIS program as constituted, which largely restricted the ways and means to improve production under existing capabilities to procedural and organizational changes. Improvements already effected by the NIS Committee had been the increase of the annual production rate of KPs from 8 to 16 with planned looseleaf maintenance, the increase of Chapter I production from 8 to 12 a year, and the revision of Chapter IX outline to permit more efficient production.

1963

At the request of USIB in November 1962, the Assistant for Coordination, DCI conducted a survey of the NIS Program. In preparing its report the Coordination Staff held detailed discussions with representatives of USIB member agencies having responsibilities either past or present within the NIS Program. A DIA survey undertaken within the Department of Defense was taken into consideration. State Department and certain non-USIB governmental agencies were also

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queried to determine their views as to the utility of the NIS Program in their work.

Recommendations of the Coordination Staff were approved by USIB Directive D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963, and were concerned primarily with the Concept, Direction, and Management of the NIS Program, and Coordination with Other Programs of Basic Intelligence. USIB was designated responsible for providing policy direction for the NIS Program including establishing priorities for production of the NIS. The NIS Committee was designated to assist the USIB in carrying out its responsibilities. The report also indicated that for each NIS area the extent of treatment given to any topic covered over and above that prescribed for the General Survey shall be based upon an explicit determination on an individual basis of the significance with which that topic applies to the particular country or area. Thus by implication the USIB indicated that the General Survey as the minimum coverage for each NIS area would be supported by detailed sections produced on a highly selective basis.

Accordingly, the NIS Committee took action towards programming an annual target of 30 General Surveys as a principal means of more timely NIS coverage.

1964

Responses to a DIA questionnaire on use of the NIS by the military forces in April 1964 were received from 374 organizations. Responding agencies ranged in size from single-man attache stations to two organi-

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Responses to the NIS Questionnaire indicated that, in general, the NIS is being used widely and fruitfully for its intended purpose in the military establishment. The NIS served as a basic intelligence encyclopedia and provides background data and source material for use in other publications or local presentations. NIS material is digested and extracted for use in briefings, and furnishes the basis for further research effort, expended in preparation of specialized, locally required detailed studies. The wide use made of the NIS in the preparation of other studies, the substantial number of organizations which paraphrase or extract NIS material for use in other documents, and the fact that the largest group of NIS users are intelligence personnel whose duties require them to disseminate or prepare for further dissemination intelligence information, suggested that NIS information reaches a far larger audience than the 17,000 identified personnel who actually handled the NIS annually. The explicitly stated need for additional studies if the NIS were not available further indicated that the NIS currently fills many requirements that would otherwise resulted in requests for special studies, and that the number of special studies now produced might be reduced if the NIS were maintained on a more up-to-date basis.

1964

The NIS Committee in implementing the August 1963 USIB Directive to reorient the NIS Program, submitted to USIB 4 June 1964 the results of a selected high-level consumer evaluation of how well the new General Survey and the reoriented NIS meet their needs in comparison with the previous NIS series, and the recommended priorities in planned NIS production by foreign areas and topics. Responses to inquiries addressed to four Assistant Secretaries of State, four Ambassadors, and the Commanders of four unified Commands of the Department of Defense unanimously assessed the one-volume General Survey as a significant improvement enhancing the effectiveness of the re-oriented NIS Program.

-7-

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